

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 167198

11

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-01 PRS-01

BIB-01 /082 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:WPOBRIEN:LL

APPROVED BY IO/UNESCO:RCHEATER

ARA/USOAS:GMONSMA (DRAFT)

ARA/CEN:MBOVA (DRAFT)

----- 031941

R 062317Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 167198

NESCO; QUITO: PLEASE PASS TO HOLLEY MACK BELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT:INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION
POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, SAN JOSE,
COSTA RICA, JULY 12-21, 1976 (POSITION PAPER)

1. PROBLEM: DURING DISCUSSION OF WAYS OF DEVELOPING
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNICATION POLICIES AND SYSTEMS,
IT IS LIKELY THAT PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE NEWS MEDIA AND
THE IMPACT OF FOREIGN MEDIA ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(PARTICULARLY NORTH AMERICAN) WILL COME UNDER ATTACK.

2. DISCUSSION: THIS MEETING IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES THAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 167198

UNESCO WILL CONVENE ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THESE CONFERENCES

ARE BEING HELD TO MEET A WIDESPREAD DEMAND BY MEMBER STATES OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING COHERENT NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES BELIEVE THE ONE-WAY FLOW OF NEWS AND IDEAS FROM THE DEVELOPED NATIONS IS A THREAT TO THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL IDENTITY. THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE STRONG NORTH AMERICAN MEDIA INFLUENCE IN THAT REGION. THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HOPE TO COUNTER THE PRESENT UNIDIRECTIONAL FLOW OF INFORMATION WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM UNESCO TO TRAIN PERSONNEL, CREATE THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES, AND DEVELOP NATIONAL COMMUNICATION POLICIES.

3. AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO IN 1974, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS A DISPROPORTIONATE FLOW OF NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE DEVELOPED TO THE DEVELOPING NATIONS AND STATED THAT IT PLACED HIGH PRIORITY ON UNESCO'S PROGRAMS TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO EXPAND THEIR OWN COMMUNICATION CAPACITIES IN ORDER THAT COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT BE A TWO-WAY STREET. THE UNITED STATES CALLED FOR AN EXPANSION AND MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE SHARING OF THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNICAL FACILITIES AND THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF MEDIA PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. THE NEWS MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF UNESCO, CHARGING THAT IT IS PROMOTING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA THROUGH SUCH CONFERENCES. THEY CITE THE REPORT OF THE BOGOTA EXPERTS MEETING IN JULY 1974, CONVENED TO CONSIDER SOME OF THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SAN JOSE MEETING TO BUTTRESS THEIR ALLEGATIONS. ONE SECTION OF THAT REPORT IMPLIED THAT GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA WAS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL GOALS. THE MEDIA ALSO POINT TO THE SOVIET-INITIATED DECEMBER 1975 MASS MEDIA CONFERENCE WHICH ADOPTED A DECLARATION INIMICAL TO A FREE PRESS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF UNESCO'S DETRIMENTAL INFLUENCE ON THIS ISSUE. THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION AND THE INTER-AMERICAN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 167198

PROTESTED TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW THAT THE SAN JOSE MEETING MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE TREND TOWARD INCREASING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA. THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR IN APRIL WITHDREW ITS INVITATION TO HOST THE MEETING, AND THE SITE WAS LATER CHANGED TO SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA.

5. UNITED STATES POSITION:

(A) U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION SHOULD GENERALLY MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE AT THE CONFERENCE AND SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMAL DEBATE WITHOUT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT. THE OBJECT OF THIS POSITION IS TO ALLAY ANY FEARS OF STRONG-ARM TACTICS BY THE UNITED STATES.

(B) IF ERRONEOUS CHARGES ARE MADE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OR RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED INIMICAL TO U.S. INTERESTS, THE U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE BEFORE MAKING A FORMAL INTERVENTION.

(C) DURING CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION SHOULD REAFFIRM U.S. SUPPORT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE FREE FLOW OF NEWS AND INFORMATION AND EXPRESS U.S. OPPOSITION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ADVOCATING GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OF THE NEWS MEDIA OR OTHERWISE RESTRICTING THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE FLOW.

(D) U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION SHOULD ALSO OBSERVE THE ROLE OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, BIAS MIGHT EXIST WHICH WOULD SUPPORT MEDIA CHARGES THAT UNESCO FAVORS GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OF THE MEDIA. ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE167198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPOBRIEN:LL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760260-1160
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760786/aaaacygw.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, SAN JOSE
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO
To: PARIS SAN JOSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006